

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 and 4-13 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, and 7-9 being independent. Claims 7, 8, 12, and 13 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Requested Action

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Substantive Rejections

Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by the patent to Nobuoka (U.S. Patent No. 5,986,698). Claims 4-6, and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent to Nobuoka in view of the patent to Oshima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,526,045).

Response to Substantive Rejections

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections, independent Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Applicant submits that as amended, independent Claims 1 and 9 are allowable for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 relates to an imaging apparatus capable of imaging a still picture and a motion picture. The apparatus comprises an image stabilizer that suppresses image blur of

the imaging apparatus, first determination means for determining which one of still picture imaging and a motion picture imaging is performed, and a controller that selects a control frequency characteristic of the image stabilizer based on the result produced by the first determination means. Claim 1 also recites that the control frequency characteristic of the image stabilizer has a lower frequency response for still picture imaging than for motion picture imaging.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite second determination means for determining whether an image stabilization process is actuated, whether an operation switch is released, whether a first signal is generated in response to operating the operation switch, or whether a second signal is generated in response to operation of the operation switch.

Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the controller also selects a control frequency characteristic in response to the second determination means determining that the image stabilization function is turned off, that the operation switch is released, that the first signal is generated, and that the second signal is generated.

In contrast, the patent to Nobuoka is not understood to disclose or suggest a controller that selects a control frequency characteristic of an image stabilizer in response to second determination means determining that an image stabilization function is turned off, that an operation switch is released, that a first signal is generated in response to operating the operation switch, and that the second signal is generated in response to operation of the operation switch, as recited by amended Claim 1.

For this reason, amended Claim 1 is not understood to be anticipated by the patent to Nobuoka. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of this claim over this patent be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 9 relates to an imaging apparatus capable of imaging a still picture and a motion picture, comprising an image stabilizer that suppresses image blur, and a detector that detects a vibration frequency using a predetermined vibration detection characteristic selected from among a plurality of vibration detection characteristics. The predetermined vibration detection characteristic is selected on the basis of whether the imaging apparatus is performing still picture imaging or motion picture imaging.

Claim 9 has been amended to recite that the predetermined vibration detection characteristic is also selected on the basis of whether an image stabilization function is turned off, whether an operation switch is released, whether a first signal is generated in response to the operation switch not being released, and whether a second signal is generated in response to the operation switch not being released.

In contrast, the patent to Nobuoka is not understood to disclose or suggest that a predetermined vibration detection characteristic is also selected on the basis of whether an image stabilization function is turned off, whether an operation switch is released, whether a first signal is generated in response to the operation switch not being released, and whether a second signal is generated in response to the operation switch not being released, as recited by amended Claim 9.

For this reason, amended Claim 9 is not understood to be anticipated by the patent to Nobuoka. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of this claim over this patent be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given for the independent claims and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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